

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-08 HA-05 /090 W
-----076483 170707Z /13

R 161721Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6954
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3292

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN: CLERIDES WITHDRAWS

REF: NICOSIA 3145

SUMMARY: WITHDRAWAL OF CLERIDES FROM PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN
AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPPORT BY IMPORTANT SEGMENTS OF RIGHT
WING FOR KYPRIANOU GREATLY IMPROVE LATTER'S CHANCES OF UNCON-
TESTED ELECTION IN FEBRUARY. END SUMMARY.

1. GLAFCOS CLERIDES, LEADER OF OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC RALLY (DR)
AND ONLY DECLARED CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT BESIDES KYPRIANOU
IN FEBRUARY ELECTION, ANNOUNCED DEC. 16 HIS DECISION TO WITH-
DRAW FROM RACE. CLERIDES SAID HIS DECISION TO WITHDRAW WAS
BASED ON HIS DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO UNITY, ESPECIALLY
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IN LIGHT OF KIDNAPPING OF PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S SON.
ON PREVIOUS DAY AT SPECIAL MEETING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL
CALLED TO DEAL WITH KIDNAPPING, CLERIDES HAD MADE
EMOTIONAL PLEDGE TO KYPRIANOU TO WITHDRAW. IT IS NOT
CLEAR WHETHER CLERIDES WITHDRAWAL NECESSARILY COMMITS
HIM OR HIS PARTY ACTIVELY TO SUPPORT KYPRIANOU'S
CANDIDACY OR WHETHER IT MEANS THAT THE DR MIGHT THROW ITS

SUPPORT TO SOME OTHER CANDIDATE.

2. EARLIER IN WEEK, TWO SIGNIFICANT RIGHT-WING GROUPS, PANCYPRIAN UNION OF FARMERS (PEK) AND PANCYPRIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (PADIK), ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO SUPPORT KYPRIANOU FOR PRESIDENT. THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS CLEAR INDICATION THAT COMMISSIONER OF COOPERATIVES, ANDREAS AZINAS, POWER BEHIND THE THRONE IN PEK AND VERY INFLUENTIAL IN PADIK, HAS MOVED BEHIND KYPRIANOU. AZINAS IS A FORCE OF CONSEQUENCE AMONG RIGHT-WING RURAL POPULATION AND IT IS GENERALLY CONCEDED THAT HIS SUPPORT WAS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS OF ANY STOP-KYPRIANOU MOVEMENT.

3. COMMENT: EFFORTS BY ANTI-KYPRIANOU FORCES WHICH WERE ATTEMPTING TO BUILD VIABLE MOVEMENT BEHIND A UNITY CANDIDATE SUCH AS PASCALIS PASCALIDES HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY WEAKENED BY FAILURE TO SECURE SUPPORT OF AZINAS AND TO PERSUADE KYPRIANOU TO STEP ASIDE. PASCALIDES HIMSELF, WHO ALL ALONG HAD CONSIDERED UNIFIED RIGHT-WING SUPPORT A CONDITION OF HIS CANDIDACY, IS RECONSIDERING HIS CANDIDACY. ALTHOUGH ANTI-KYPRIANOU ACTIVISTS STILL ARE TALKING OF PUTTING FORWARD PASCALIDES OR MINISTER OF FINANCE ANDREAS PATSALIDES AS UNITY CANDIDATE, THIS PARTICULAR MOVEMENT SEEMS TO HAVE DECLINING CHANCES OF SUCCESS WITHOUT AZINAS' AND CLERIDES' SUPPORT. WITH THESE DEVELOPMENTS, KYPRIANOU'S
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CHANCES OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION AS PRESIDENT IN FEBRUARY HAVE DRAMATICALLY IMPROVED. WITH NO DECLARED OPPOSITION, WITH THE PROBABLE SUPPORT OF THE LEFT AND THE ANNOUNCED SUPPORT OF SOME SEGMENTS OF THE RIGHT, AND WITH THE LIKELIHOOD OF A GROUNDSWELL OF SYMPATHY FOR HIM OVER THE KIDNAPPING OF HIS SON, HE IS IN AN EVER STRONGER POSITION. HEALTH IS AT THIS STAGE PROBABLY THE ONLY FACTOR WHICH MIGHT DENY HIM WHAT HE SEEKS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF AS A RESULT OF THE STRESS OVER SON'S KIDNAPPING HE WERE TO SUFFER ANOTHER ANGINA ATTACK, THE NUMBERS OF THOSE WHO QUESTION HIS SUITABILITY WOULD INCREASE.
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, CY, (CLERIDES, GLAFCOS)
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